

CHIMP

Doesn't Crimp New London

Naval Submarine Base Runs Successful Consolidated Hazardous Material Management Center

For the past nine years, Naval Submarine Base (SUBASE) New London, CT has enjoyed greater efficiencies and environmental compliance status due largely to its Consolidated Hazardous Materials Reutilization and Inventory Management (CHIMP) Center.

Personnel from Commands across SUBASE New London often use various types of hazardous materials during

their daily routines. In the past, they stored and maintained their own supplies of hazardous materials in storage lockers near their facilities. But for several years now, whenever someone aboard SUBASE New London needs hazardous materials, they contact the Consolidated Hazardous Material Reutilization Inventory Management Program (CHIMP) Center.

The CHIMP Center consolidated the responsibilities of the various

Commands around SUBASE New London and now controls all hazardous products for 63 tenant Commands on the SUBASE and for the Coast Guard Academy.

The CHIMP Center is managed by 13 civilian employees, two members of the military and four contractors. These personnel maintain hazardous materials in a central warehouse, issue it to Command representatives and receive returns of unused materials. CHIMP personnel also pick up and deliver hazardous materials to SUBASE customers and collect and process hazardous waste for disposal. SUBASE New London CHIMP personnel also help to establish CHIMP centers throughout the Northeast Region and



The CHIMP Center on SUBASE New London consolidated the responsibilities of 63 tenant commands around the SUBASE. CHIMP Center personnel now control the hazardous materials for those commands and for the Coast Guard Academy.



Terry Maher punctures aerosol cans to empty out the remaining contents before disposing of them. An unpunctured can is treated as hazardous material due to the residual contents. The chemicals in the aerosol cans are released into a 30-gallon can, which is then turned over to the Environmental Department for disposal.



Rick Houde, a material handler at SUBASE New London's CHRIMP Center, moves used vehicle batteries into position to be disposed of with other hazardous waste. The batteries are turned into one of the CHRIMP Center's vendors for a one-to-one exchange for new vehicle batteries.



MS2 (SS) Jorge Caldero (front right) and MS1 (SS) Morris Roberts, both from the Combined Bachelor Quarters, meet with Memory Hankins, the Enhanced CHRIMP Afloat Technician, to update their Material Safety Data Sheets and their Authorized User List.

provide hazardous materials management services to all home ported submarines. In addition, they maintain the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for hazardous materials for the entire Northeast Region and the Coast Guard Academy and manage the Authorized User Lists (AUL) for the SUBASE and the Coast Guard Academy.

"It's not just a consolidation of materials, it's also a consolidation of functions," said Jehdia Bottinelli, manager of New London's CHRIMP Center. "We are the point of entry and the point of exit for hazardous materials. There were approximately 80 people procuring hazardous materials within our fence line. Now we have three people who procure hazardous materials. Instead of customers going to multiple places, they come here for all their hazardous material needs."

CHRIMP maintains several types of hazardous materials, including acids, corrosives, paints, oils and various other types of chemicals. What makes these items hazardous is, according to Bottinelli, their chemical constituents. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

profile each hazardous material and identify the components that make them "hazardous."

In addition to the hazardous aspect of the materials, CHRIMP Center employees also monitor the two types of shelf life for the materials. Items with a "Type 1" shelf life are non-extendable. However, CHRIMP Center employees look for innovative ways to utilize these materials to avoid wasting them.

"Marine coating has a Type 1 shelf life and when it expires, it's no longer useful for its military specification. An expired material may not be used in submarines because of a breakdown of key chemical components in the product" Bottinelli said. "But it's still good enough to use when painting a road sign. This is just one simple example of how we divert unused, expired hazardous material from the waste stream and put it to good use."

Materials with a "Type 2" shelf life can be extended if CHRIMP personnel determine that the material is still useable. Expiration dates vary depending on the material. However,

CHRIMP employees inspect the containers and the contents to see if they still are useable past their initial expiration date.

When hazardous material is to be disposed of, the CHRIMP Center has an accumulation area where the material can be properly prepared for disposal.

"We will prepare hazardous materials for shipping and take it to the Treatment, Storage & Disposal Facility operated by our Environmental Department," Bottinelli said. "They add the materials to the shipping manifest and delivery order for pick-up by the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO). We try to avoid sending materials to DRMO. We like to find another use for unused hazardous materials wherever possible."

To avoid reaching the point where SUBASE New London wastes hazardous materials, CHRIMP personnel set high and low limits on the items based on the demand level for the material at SUBASE New London and the Coast Guard Academy.



Personnel from the CHRIMP Center also maintain the Authorized User List (AUL) for the Base (and elsewhere). The AUL contains a listing of those work centers or personnel from each Command who are authorized to receive hazardous materials. The AUL also defines what specific types and quantities of hazardous material are required by the customer.

When one customer is finished using a product for their task, CHRIMP personnel will reissue the material to other customers until the container has been depleted.

rized to keep hazardous materials for up to seven days—with the exception of the Naval Submarine Support Facility (NSSF). NSSF is authorized to keep hazardous materials for up to ten days.

“This prevents Commands from stockpiling hazardous materials and creating a waste management problem,” Bottinelli said. “It also provides for a safer working environment. In the past, individual Commands had their own lockers for storing hazardous materials. Lockers were neglected and items were stored improperly. Some lockers contained several months’

The SUBASE New London CHRIMP Center maintains several types of hazardous materials, including acids, corrosives, paints, oils and various other types of chemicals. The Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) profiles each hazardous material and identifies the components make them “hazardous.” CHRIMP personnel manage the MSDS library for the entire Northeast Region and the Coast Guard Academy.

“This works out well because we avoid procuring material that won’t be used,” Bottinelli said. “A five-gallon can of monoethanolamine costs \$63.50 to procure and \$86.00 to waste. We avoid any unnecessary procurement and waste costs of this product. That’s a huge savings for us.”

When CHRIMP personnel issue hazardous materials, they track the items to ensure that unused portions are returned within the specified timeframe. According to Bottinelli, Commands aboard SUBASE New London are autho-

worth of material. Now that we’ve restricted Commands to a seven- to ten-day supply, they’re able to more efficiently manage those supplies.”

CHRIMP representatives also inspect Commands’ hazardous material lockers to ensure that they are in compliance with SUBASE New London’s safety procedures.

In the nine years since the CHRIMP Center was established, it has been successful at properly managing hazardous materials across SUBASE New London. Ongoing support from each of the tenant Commands has certainly helped to underscore the success of the CHRIMP Center.

“CHRIMP Center personnel and our customers make this program a success. It takes an enduring commitment from our staff and customers to maintain compliance every day,” she said. “The program benefits everybody because it consolidates both materials and function into a single facility. It’s easier to use us and be in compliance now. That’s the real key to our success.” ⚓

*Photos and draft by JO1 (SW/AW)
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